II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for managing groups of objects for use in a reporting system project comprising the steps of:

receiving a command to perform a selected function on a selected object;

automatically identifying dependent objects referred to by the selected object;

determining using a computer processor an appropriate manner of executing the selected function on the selected object;

determining using a computer processor appropriate functions to be performed on the dependent objects;

automatically causing the appropriate functions to be performed on the dependent objects; and

automatically causing the execution of the selected function on the selected object in the appropriate manner.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the selected object is contained in metadata of an on-line analytical processing system.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of causing the appropriate functions to be performed on the dependent objects is performed prior to the step of causing the execution of the selected function in the appropriate manner.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein objects are grouped in projects and the selected function relates to manipulating objects within and between projects and wherein within each project each object has a unique identifier and a version identifier.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 4 wherein the step of determining appropriate functions to be performed on the dependent objects includes the steps of:

comparing dependent objects at a source and objects at a destination to determine whether an object at the destination exists in an identical form to each of the dependent objects at the source and whether an object at the destination exists in a modified form to each of the dependent objects at the source; and

determining, based on the step of comparing, which dependent object to copy from the source to the destination such that the selected object remains complete after execution of the selected function in the appropriate manner.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 4 wherein the step of receiving is a step of receiving a command to copy a selected object from a source project to a destination project.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 6 wherein the unique identifier and version identifier of objects in the source project are similar to the unique identifier and version identifier of objects in the destination project.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 6 wherein the step of determining an appropriate manner of executing the function includes the steps of:

determining, by comparing unique identifiers and version identifiers, whether the selected object exists in the destination project in an identical form and whether the selected object exists in the destination project in a modified form; and

selecting whether to copy the selected object from the source project to the destination project, to replace an object in the destination project with the selected object, and to keep an object in the destination project as is.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 8 wherein the step of selecting includes prompting the user for a selection.

10. (Original) A system application for managing objects within and between projects of a reporting system, the objects including unique identifiers and version identifiers that are similar between projects, the system application comprising:

a user interface for receiving a user command to manipulate a selected object; and

an operational module interfacing with the projects for identifying dependent objects referred to by the selected object, determining an appropriate manner of executing the user command, determining appropriate functions to be performed on the dependent objects, performing the appropriate functions on dependent objects, and executing the user command in the appropriate manner.

11. (Original) The system application of claim 10 wherein the operational module interfaces with projects that reside in various environments.

12. (Original) The system application of claim 10 wherein the operational module performs the appropriate functions on dependent objects prior to executing the user command in the appropriate manner.

13. (Original) The system application of claim 10 wherein the operation module interfaces with projects of an on-line analytical processing system.

14. (Original) The system application of claim 10 wherein the operational module, upon receiving a user command to copy the selected object from a source project to a destination project, determines, by comparing the unique identifiers and the version identifiers, whether the selected object exists in the destination project in an identical form and whether the selected object exists in the destination project in a modified form.

15. (Original) The system application of claim 14 wherein the operational module communicates with the user interface to select whether to copy the selected object from

the source project to the destination project, to replace an object in the destination object with the selected object, and to keep an object in the destination project as is.

16. (Original)   The system application of claim 10 wherein the operational module compares dependent objects at a source project and objects at a destination project to determine whether an object at the destination exists in an identical form to each of the dependent objects at the source and whether an object at the destination project at the destination exists in a modified form to each of the dependent objects at the source.

17. (Original)   The system application of claim 16 wherein the operational module selects dependent objects from the source project to copy to the destination project such that the selected object remains complete after execution of the user command in the appropriate manner.

18. (Original)   A processor-readable medium including code for execution on a processor to managing groups of objects comprising:

code for receiving a command to perform a selected function on a selected object;

code for identifying dependent objects referred to by the selected object;

code for determining an appropriate manner of executing the selected function;

code for determining appropriate functions to be performed on the dependent objects;

code for causing the appropriate functions to be performed on the dependent objects; and

code for causing the execution of the selected function in the appropriate manner.